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an elaborately copied book

The Translation of the
Codex of Oblivion

Inside the Codex of Oblivion is told the history of the Cult of the Skull, the coming of the Arch-Liches, of the Convergence of Unmaking, of the Rituals of Unbirth, of the Deities of Darkness and of the Final Resistance.

The Codex of Oblivion is a book written in an ancient forgotten language, from the first worshippers of Oblivion, thus compiling and translating all the old manuscripts is a task for several years, all of which, I cannot unfortunately spare.

The Codex has been the object of my study recently, and the reason of my ingress in this Order. It is my personal belief that the Codex holds the secrets of the making of the universe, of the seed of all life energy and predicts the arrival of the End, and knowing these secrets would be the source of Ultimate Power in wise hands. There have been several translations of

the Codex made by other scholars.

This is my own view of the issues accounted within, and it is somehow contradictory to the vision that built the base of the Knowledge and Teaching of the Order of the Ebon Skull.

Of the Convergence of Unmaking

It is somewhat unclear, even to the ranks of Oblivion, the definition of Oblivion and Entropy, which rest somewhere between real facts, and the creed built upon them, sometimes shadowing the truth behind our history. I was never satisfied with the lack of a precise definition of these concepts. Concepts which erected the Table of Conduct of all Undead, the Conclave and their followers.

I wasn't willing to believe that all ancient documents understood Oblivion and Entropy as being purely matterless forms of uncorporeal and conscious energy, a destructive force willing to engulf all existence and itself. From my old experiences with astronomy, and thaumaturgy, I deduced the first step in this research was actually understand the truth about these elements.

It was never clear to me the nature of Entropy, or how the adoration and cult to it could be related to the exact meaning and connotation of the word. Were they the same thing? As per se,

Oblivion, the nothingness,
the void, and Entropy, the
decay and undoing, a
process through which all
matter eventually is faded
to, were not in
conjunction a reason for
cult and adoration.

They
are scientific elements,
natural components of the
cycle of life and the
universe. What reason led
this Order to adore
them, and through them
acquire mystical powers
to raise their banners
and march their hordes in
conviction of their
beliefs? Were they just
Apocalyptic lunatiques?
My first task was to
read through all the
documents I had and get
rid of the devotional
notations and all partiality
that is typical on any
manuscripts written by a
cult of fanatics. Little
substantial information
could be found and used
from the creeds and
mythological notions.

With the raw information
in hands, I could head on
to a historical research
on the myth of the
forces that control the
universe, from several
points of view and relate
them all, to a point in
which the folklore and
fantasy were reduced to
straight facts. A hard
task given that the
Codex was originally
compiled by several hands.

The hardest point in
comprehending the Theory
of the Convergence and
duality of the two
natural entities before my
research was accepting
it's unpersonal nature as
motive for contemplation.

It was a force, and
naturally, if not obviously,
it was deprived of any
personality, will or
consciousness.

Had it been
regarded as a Deity, a
god, or a being, it would
not have been so
abstracted to the point
of doubt. It is known
that in the beginning,
humans were devoted to
natural phenomena and
objects that fled their
knowledge of the material
world, but then, they
used mythology to give
them character and
feelings instead of
abstract form. Was that
the case here?

Speaking of the abstract,
the theory that is
predominant in Britannian
is that of Balance, which
is kept by the existence
of Order and Chaos.
Through which, the world
is shaped by opposing
forces that must be
equal in an evergoing
struggle for superiority.
Existence though, would
cease to exist if one of
the sides prevailed, thus
evil is necessary so that
humanity can learn to
avoid it.

These concepts are
present in almost all
religions. It intrigued me
that the followers of
Oblivion did not relate
themselves to the Circle
of Chaos, but instead,
preferred to abstain
themselves from this
particular conflict, and
settle themselves in
another ideology.
Yet, to achieve their
goals, they applied means
that were contradictory
to those not adept to

Chaos, and that could easily fall in the category of chaotic doing.

To understand how the Theory of Balance with the existence of Entropy could coexist, without eliminating one of them, was a challenge. Naturally, the easiest way would be to prove that the Convergence of Oblivion and Entropy would be but a new interpretation of the forces of Chaos. But if Oblivion was to consume everything, what would be made of Balance? This quickly retreated this line of thought.

Evil and Good are opposite forces wishing to prevail over each other and gain control. Entropy desires destruction and return to the initial Oblivion, which then would be also final. Nothingness and ultimate desolation could hardly qualify as balance. Then I thought, that Oblivion, could be Balance itself, consuming either what is good, and what is bad, regardless of any conscience or Will. But what moved the desire to support the form of Balance that would make us all perish, including the defenders of this very theory? Or are all followers of Oblivion simply slaves to its will, condemned to eternal suffering and the ultimate death because they no longer carry control over their actions?

It was then that I first ingressed in the Order to

examine the behaviour of the Undead and have access to their documents. I understood how the Order had been put together and how it was structured, and how Chaos was not evidenced in their acts, which were gruesome, but had a share of Law and Order.

Unable to fit them in either side of the struggle of Balance, I started to assume that Oblivion was an overlooked Third Element, necessary to keep Balance, and had always been present in the composition of our universe. While the other forces are conflicting to create, the force of Oblivion is willing to undo.

Acting as a dissipation element necessary to maintain the cycle eternal. The Order of the Ebon Skull is not aligned to the forces of Light, but it does not cause it immediate destruction. It will not align itself with Evil, because Evil that does not serve it, is destroyed likewise.

What the belief of Oblivion was doing was exactly being a Third component in the cycle of Balance, without which, one of the sides would have arised victorious. As death in nature, Oblivion represented not the good or the bad. It represented the end of the Cycle, from which it could start again either in Chaos, or in Order.

But again, something intrigued me. What would come after the End? To

Order, Chaos would be
the End. To Chaos, Order
would represent the End.
What about Oblivion?
That's when I needed the
aid of the Codex, for
that part was unclear.
The reason, the goal.
Destruction did not seem
like a reason worth
fighting for. So, what
would come after? What
would be the reward for
those willing to believe in
Oblivion as a competitive
force in the evergoing
struggle?

It took me months to
finally come up with some
concrete theories. Of
those, one seemed more
coherent, and I decided to
develop it further.

My research took me to
the Beginning of the
formation of the Order,
and I learned something
about the Arch-Liches and
the first members.

The Cult of the Skull
was formed when a young
man called Nizar, found in
the depths of some Ice
Caves (what would later
become the dungeons of
Deceit) an old tome
written in an unknown
language and an Ebon
Skull. By touching the
skull, he gained insight to
the writings of the book.
Amazed at his new found
artifact, it did not take
long to attract interest
towards it, and soon he
was the first leader of a
beginning Order, such like
the many we have
nowadays.

An unlearned man, Nizar
quickly grew into a sage
of unknown parallels,

absorbing the knowledge
of the book and
practising many of the
rituals described in the
book. He grew sadistic,
and his soul was twisted
and obsessed by death
and the spiritual world
behind it. His cult
brought many diseases and
plagues, and gave birth to
the Dungeon Deceit, their
first Den.

Many were
tortured there, for
decades, and in those
rooms, several calamities
were called upon the
world of that time.
I stopped at this point,
as I had already two
questions. Was Nizar
driven mad simply because
too much power had been
granted to him in so
short notice? And was
the Ebon Skull and that
book found purely by luck
(Or lack of it) or was
something greater
involved? It seemed
possible that some Divine
influence had been involved
in the finding of the
book and the expansion of
the Order.

The killing, the
rituals, the disease, they
all seem too coherent and
ordered now that we
commonly accept that
Entropy is the tool
through which Oblivion
engulfs the living forces.
But was this concept
developed by the sadists
that initiated the Order,
or were they sadists
because they were made
so? To learn that, a
third question was raised.
What was the Ebon
Skull?

I have deep knowledge on
the ancient and extinct

races of Britannia, and
the culture that
originated the Codex in
its untouched newly found
version was unique and
unmatchable. Some
intelligent entity must
have written it, but who?

I found references to
names that either have
been forgotten or
omitted from the present
teachings of Oblivion, and
fragments of texts that
indeed confirmed that
some conscious being or
beings were behind the
Dark Religion, but in what
degree they were involved,
was still a mystery.

Gholad, Ghurlag, Ghorlon,
Grahad. These names were
a riddle to me, and they
were often mentioned in
high standards, and it
soon became obvious they
were not members of the
Cult, but the object of
their devotion, higher
agents of Entropy, and
thus, the personality I
had been seeking for so
long. But how did they
get forgotten?

I visited the shrine of
the Skull in a cold
saturday evening. The
Skull was sitting there,
over blood stained pillows
in a marble altar. I was
not allowed to touch it,
but I observed it
forawhile (space here). In
my parchments, a copy of
the 22nd chapter of the
Codex of Oblivion.

It
described the Skull:
"A dark, polished skull it
was. It had no
imperfections of any kind.
Nor was it dirty or

rusted, even though it was half sunk in the dust, between dead rats and insects. Only one tooth was missing. And it was ornated only with a large pentacle, which was carved deep on the forehead."

Odd, I thought. The skull's forehead as smooth and no sign of the mentioned pentagram was to be found. Now the puzzle had really been set before me. I shivered at the thought that the Ebon Skull that we know was not actually the one that was found. I kept translating though.

The leader, Nizar, became the First Lich-Lord after his death. It is unknown if Lich-Lords that followed him are different entities or the same one, and I frankly have no resources on that. It is well known though, that for some periods the Order was led by the High-Priest and the Clergy, and historical references to the Lich-Lord are strangely missing, perhaps suggesting that Lich-Lords spawn only in certain time spans.

After the coming of Mondain though, the Cult had gone through a period in which absolutely no entries have been written into the Codex, and it remained like that until the present time, when Azalin descended into Britannia to restore the Order. The new Cult, the Order of the Ebon Skull adopted the Principles of the Codex, but since it's now written in a dead

language, I assume much of the original religion was changed or corrupted, or simply replaced with abstract and vague views.

I went back a little for more study on those names I found. I could not find anything, until I came across something of interest. Doing a preparation for a mass, I was looking into some old engravings and illustrations, when I noticed a reprint of an ancient drawing. The original was of unknown date and artist, and was a rudimentary figure of a spider like creature.

What caught my attention was the name Ghorlon, scribbled faintly in the stone plaque. The spider figure was drawn standing over an altar, and several worshippers waving right below it. I also found references that this particular engraving was taken from a book, an encyclopedia compiled in the First Age of Darkness.

With this new material in hands, I was glad to verify that the other names I had previously researched were also mentioned, and that the Cult of the Skull considered them to be Gods of Darkness, the progeny of Oblivion, and that these entities could manifest themselves physically, and the four of them were considered to be a single being. Entropy.

So I stood correct. Entropy indeed had a councious mind, and

these four entities taught
the Cult to run rituals
and sacrifice the living,
all in favor of Ultimate
destruction, in the name
of Oblivion, and the end
of all. Their personal
interest is yet unclear,
but it did not matter. I
had found the reason and
the hands behind the
finding and crafting of
the Skull and the Codex,
and the motivation behind
the expansion and power
of the Order. Intelligent
beings, behind the curtains
of an yet unclear path
of destruction and its
origin.

The gods did not manifest
themselves in this Age.
The Codex is for the
most part confusing and
written in different and
complex language. Perhaps
they can only be
awakened again or brought
to existence through
certain rituals. Or maybe
they watch silently the
events of this plane, and
have sent themselves the
Lich-Lord to start their
reign.

Or maybe yet they
have turned their back to
us and are planting their
seed of evil elsewhere.
My thoughts are, what if
the Order has not
reached yet the full
comprehension of the
power behind it? What if
worshiping these gods is
the key to understand
their true objective?
What if fulfilling their
desire is the key to
ultimate Ascension? What
have the gods promised
the original believers
beyond unspeakable
powers? Or have they
threatened them and bent
their will to their evil
plots?

And then I needed to
come up with an answer
as to what comes after
the End. Ultimate
knowledge? Ascension?
Redemption? Or even who
knows, the power of a
god?

The Lich Lord is the
commander of the Forces
of Entropy. He is their
tool and personification,
but in the theory of
Deities, one question
arises. How much does he
know? Perhaps he is
waiting for the right
time to unleash the
power and the with it
the knowledge to this
answer?

I cannot tell. The Codex
may contain this
knowledge, but I may be
years behind it. I do not
know what comes after
the End, and what is the
purpose behind these
Entities' will. I also do
not know if the Lichlord
knows, and what part the
Ebon Skull plays in this
long scheme of events.

Yet, It's told in the
Codex, as a prophecy,
that the arrival of the
Avatar of Death would be
a new Age to the Order.
Only questions remain as
of now...But curiosity
asks...Will returning to old
creeds be a step forward
to discover the secrets
of Oblivion?

Is the
Avatar of Death the
embodiement of all the
four entities? Will the
Lichlord become the
receptacle for the
Avatar, growing in power
through the centuries so
that it can host the

Deities when it is strong
enough? Meanwhile its
lackeys are to do the
dirty job, collecting souls
and lives and binding them
within the Ebon Skull,
which would serve as a
key to Outer Planes?

Who knows...

It is too early to tell...